

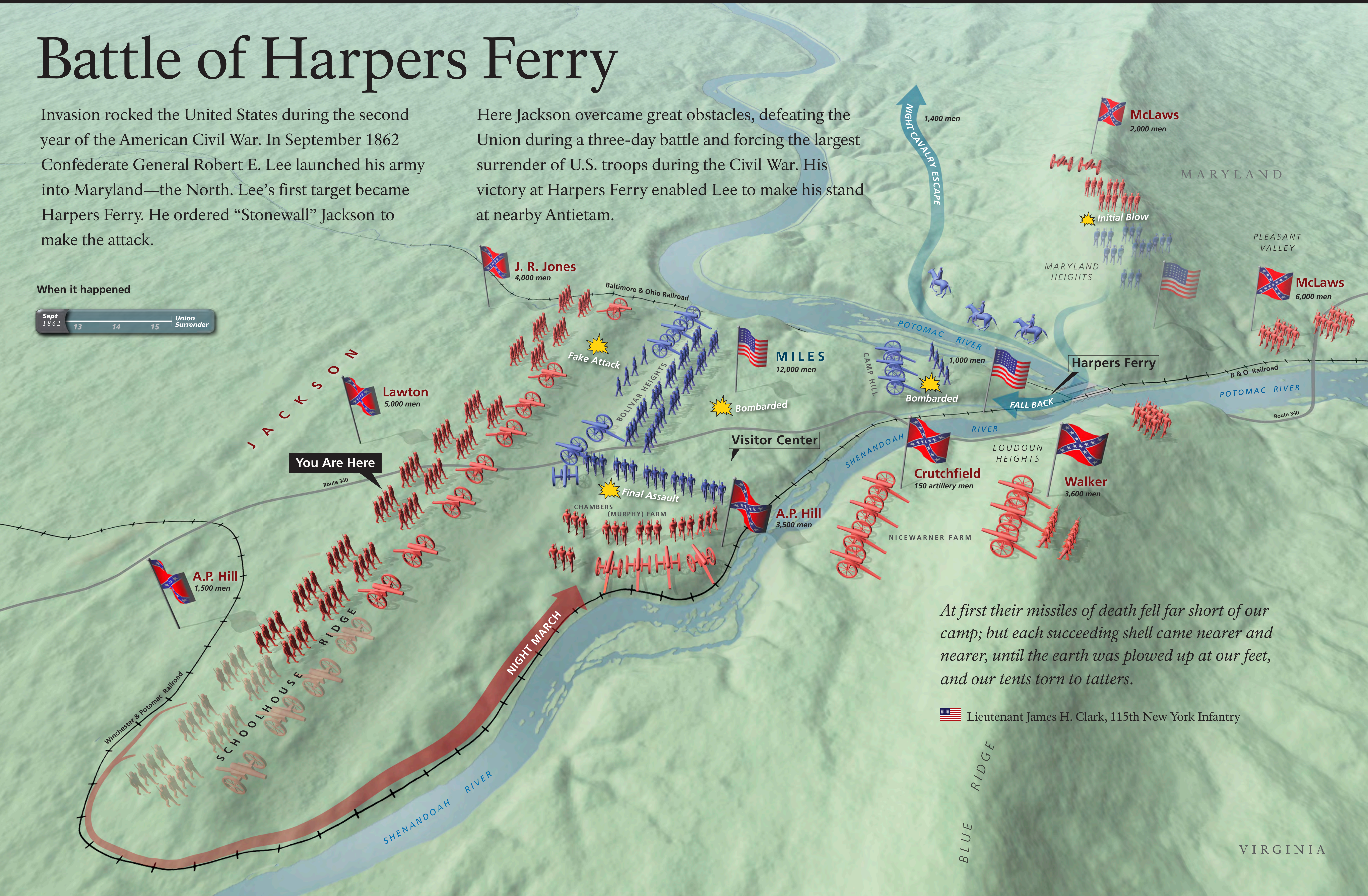


Battle of Harpers Ferry

Invasion rocked the United States during the second year of the American Civil War. In September 1862 Confederate General Robert E. Lee launched his army into Maryland—the North. Lee’s first target became Harpers Ferry. He ordered “Stonewall” Jackson to make the attack.

Here Jackson overcame great obstacles, defeating the Union during a three-day battle and forcing the largest surrender of U.S. troops during the Civil War. His victory at Harpers Ferry enabled Lee to make his stand at nearby Antietam.

When it happened



At first their missiles of death fell far short of our camp; but each succeeding shell came nearer and nearer, until the earth was plowed up at our feet, and our tents torn to tatters.

Lieutenant James H. Clark, 115th New York Infantry



Richmond-Petersburg Campaign

JUNE 1864

The contending armies marched from Cold Harbor toward Petersburg in mid-June 1864 in what became a dramatic high-stakes race. Both sides already held fortified lines here on the Bermuda Hundred peninsula. Grant borrowed troops from this force—Gen. Benjamin F. Butler’s Army of the James—to help strengthen his drive toward Petersburg. The balance of his army swept in from the east after a forced march from Cold Harbor and attacked Petersburg on June 15–18.

General P. G. T. Beauregard commanded the Confederate troops at Bermuda Hundred. He made the difficult decision to abandon the peninsula and rush to the aid of Petersburg’s defenders. Very briefly, the route to Richmond lay open through Bermuda Hundred. But Lee’s Confederate army arrived in time to restore the lines here and to help defend Petersburg. Parker’s Battery was part of the force that Lee assigned to Bermuda Hundred on June 17.

Bermuda Hundred/Parker’s Battery

After Butler’s army landed at Bermuda Hundred on May 5, 1864, this area saw continuous operations until April 3, 1865, forcing Confederate leaders to defend the area with veteran troops, like Parker’s Battery. Today this site offers a well-preserved window into the conditions along Richmond’s defenses in 1864 and 1865. Although most of the adjacent entrenchments and battlefields associated with this campaign are gone forever, Parker’s Battery stands as an evocative reminder of how things were in that dramatic era.

Petersburg Siege

The Confederate defenses at Petersburg eventually became complex and extensive. But in June 1864 a badly outnumbered force desperately guarded the primary line of defense against the converging columns of the Union army.





A Permanent Post

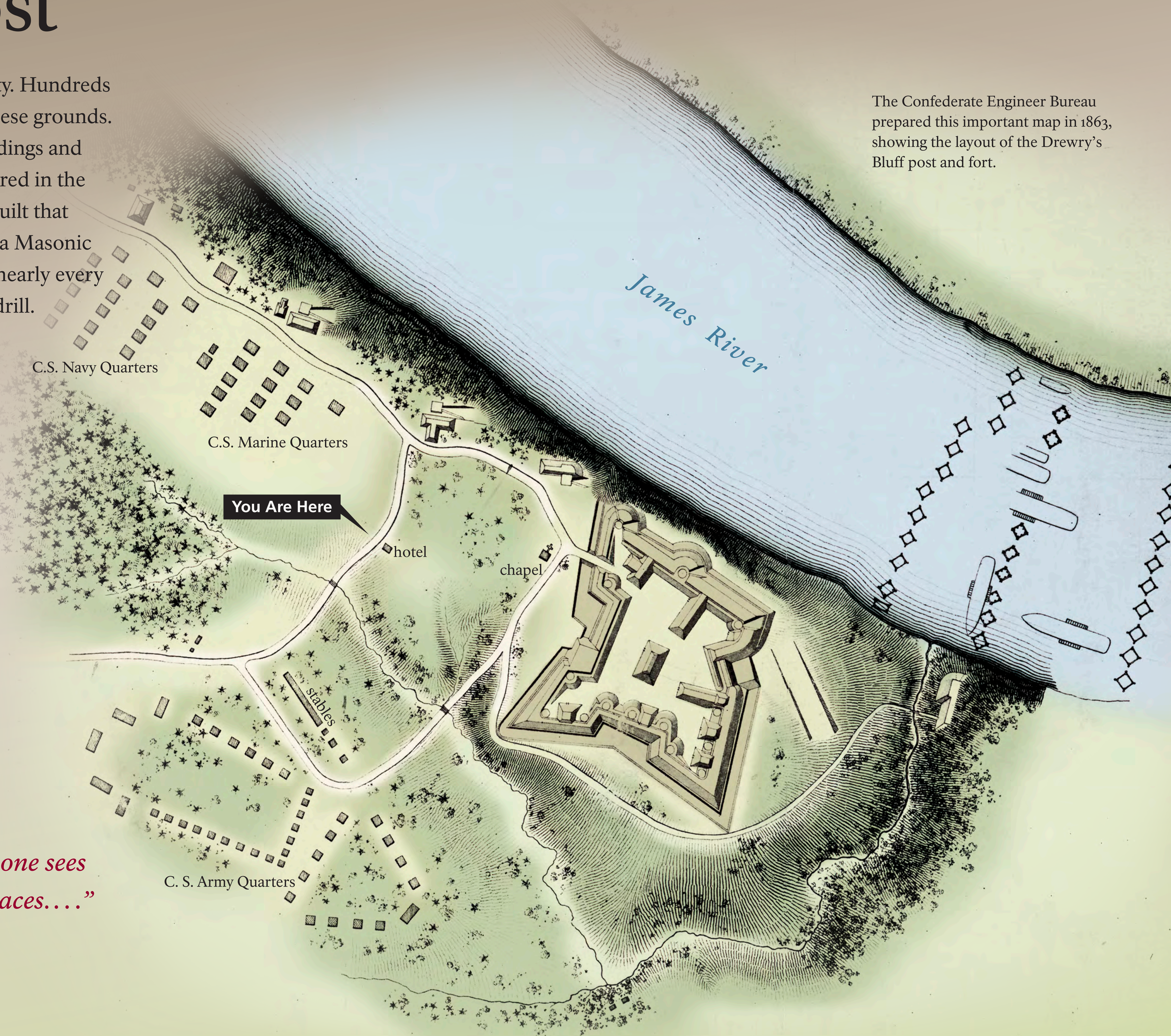
By 1863 the Drewry's Bluff post expanded into a military city. Hundreds of Confederate soldiers, sailors, and Marines camped on these grounds. The Confederate States Naval Academy held classes in buildings and aboard the side-wheeled steamer *CSS Patrick Henry*, anchored in the James River. A wide variety of supporting structures were built that included barracks, a chapel, a post office, a hotel, and even a Masonic lodge. Steamships brought civilians down from Richmond nearly every day to picnic, socialize, and watch the sailors and Marines drill.



June 1865. Union officers and their wives gather at the front porch of a former Confederate building.

“This encampment resembles a pioneer village . . . one sees small log-houses with doors, windows, and fireplaces. . . .”

Charles Girard, French envoy



The Confederate Engineer Bureau prepared this important map in 1863, showing the layout of the Drewry's Bluff post and fort.



Fort Brady Trail

Before you looms Fort Brady, one of the best-preserved Civil War forts in the National Park Service. Like most of the fortifications built during the Civil War, Fort Brady was made of earth instead of fragile bricks. Dirt could better withstand the heavy artillery projectiles used by both sides.

Union gunners who occupied Fort Brady for six months between October 1864 and April 1865 found garrison life anything but dull. Confederate gunners, stationed in batteries across the James River, shelled the fort frequently, and one major attack in January 1865 resulted in many Union casualties.



This quarter-mile loop trail tours the interior of Fort Brady. Frequent signs use historic images to show the fort during the war. As you walk, be sure to compare the current landscape with the nearly unobstructed views available to the soldiers in 1864 and 1865.

Soldiers built winter quarters in November 1864 on the windswept bluff overlooking the river, next to Fort Brady.

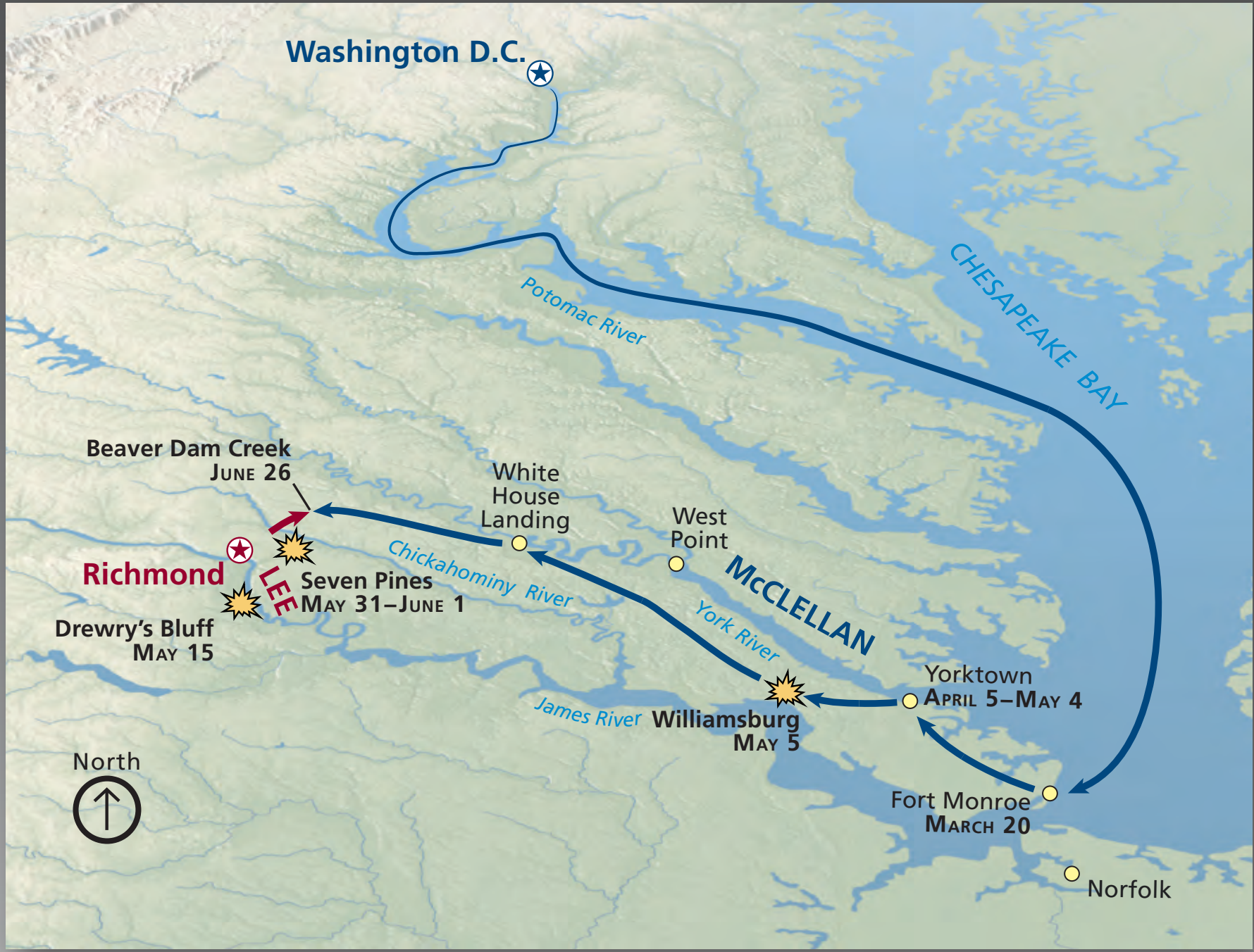




1862 Seven Days' Battles

No military campaign had more influence on the course of the Civil War than these Seven Days' battles. George B. McClellan's army of more than 100,000 Union soldiers landed at Fort Monroe in spring of 1862, and fought its way up the peninsula. By mid-May the Army of the Potomac lay on the outskirts of Richmond, hoping to capture the capital of the Confederacy and perhaps end the war. If that strategy succeeded the nation might be reunified, but without abolition of slavery. Confederate General

Robert E. Lee chose not to wait for the Federal army's next move. Instead he seized the initiative, and on June 26 advanced across the Chickahominy River with nearly 45,000 soldiers. That action opened a week-long series of battles that resulted in the Union army retreating to the banks of the James River. With Richmond secure, Lee's army moved north, defeated Union forces at Cedar Mountain and Second Manassas (Bull Run), and then marched toward Maryland and the first invasion of the North.



JUNE 26

JUNE 27

JUNE 28

JUNE 29

JUNE 30

JULY 1

Lee massed much of his own Confederate army at Chickahominy Bluff and surged over the river in a combined operation with Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

Beaver Dam Creek
Later that afternoon Lee's men struck a well positioned piece of the Federal army at Beaver Dam Creek. His attack failed, but Jackson's presence above the creek forced McClellan's men away overnight.

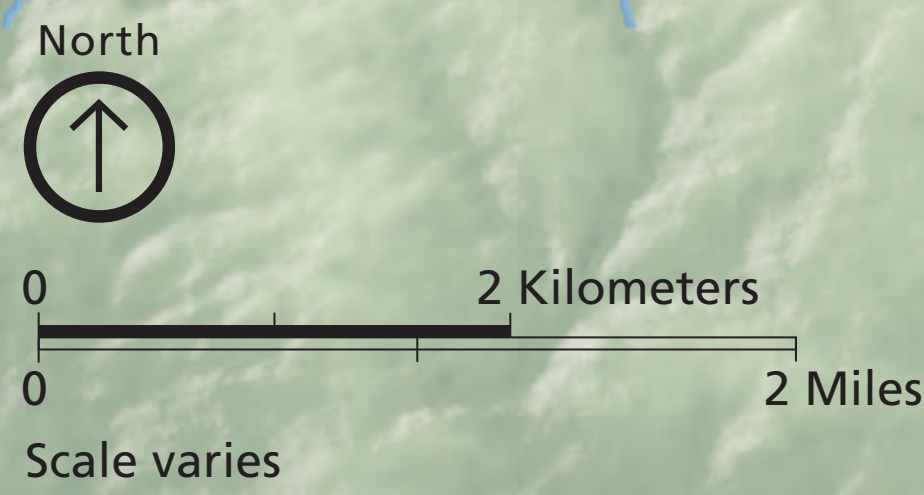
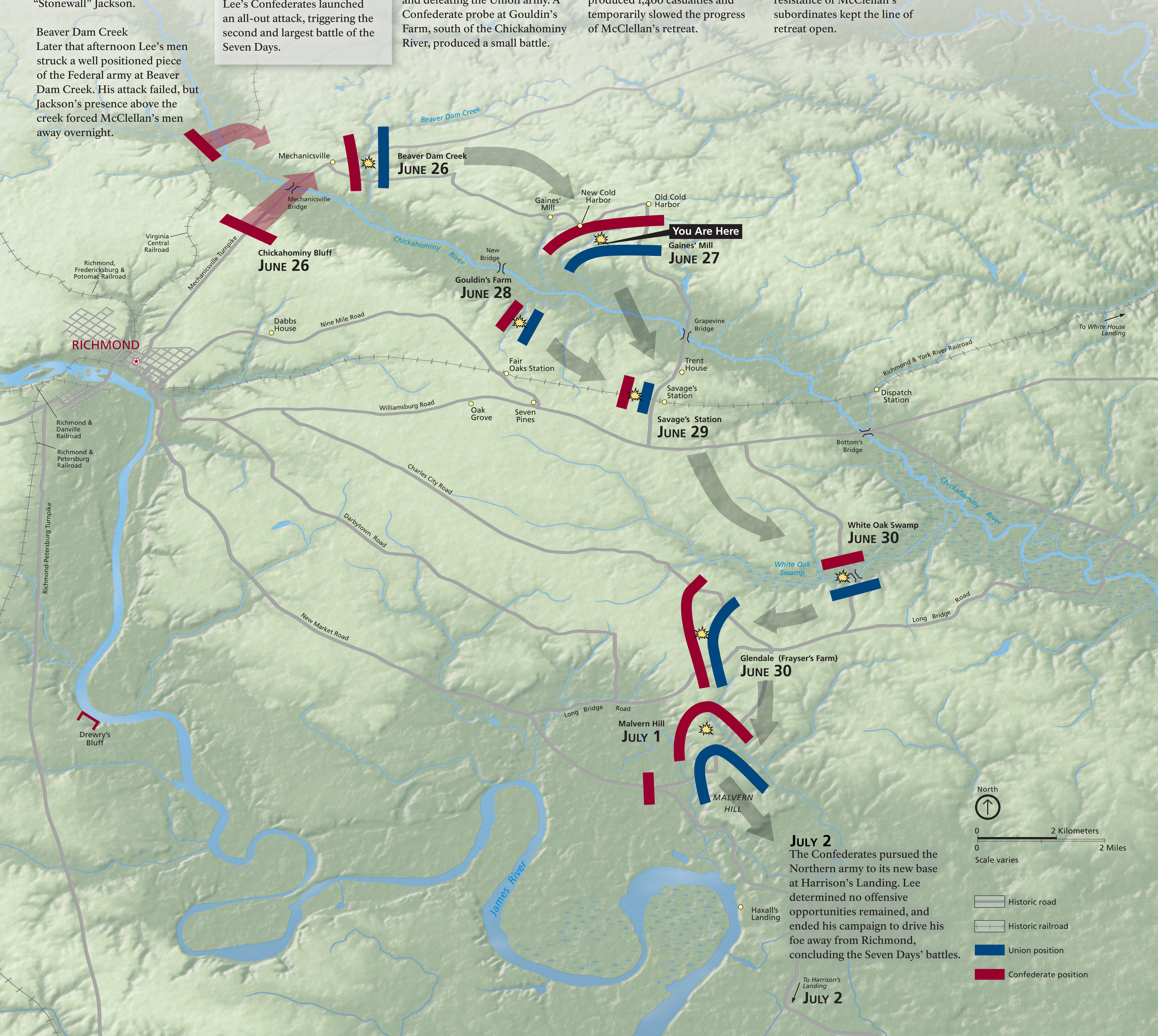
Gaines' Mill
McClellan decided to move to a new base on the James River, but his rearguard at Gaines' Mill barely escaped destruction when Lee's Confederates launched an all-out attack, triggering the second and largest battle of the Seven Days.

McClellan organized his retreat and achieved a head start in what would become a race to the James River. Meanwhile, Lee shifted from protecting Richmond to pursuing and defeating the Union army. A Confederate probe at Gouldin's Farm, south of the Chickahominy River, produced a small battle.

Lee pushed his men forward against the Union army's rear at Savage's Station, on the Richmond & York River Railroad. The inconclusive battle there produced 1,400 casualties and temporarily slowed the progress of McClellan's retreat.

Confederate columns pursued the Union army. A vicious battle at Glendale (or Frayser's Farm) gave Lee his best opportunity of the campaign, but the determined resistance of McClellan's subordinates kept the line of retreat open.

McClellan's army took up a strong defensive position atop Malvern Hill. Poorly coordinated Confederate attacks resulted in a decisive Union victory.



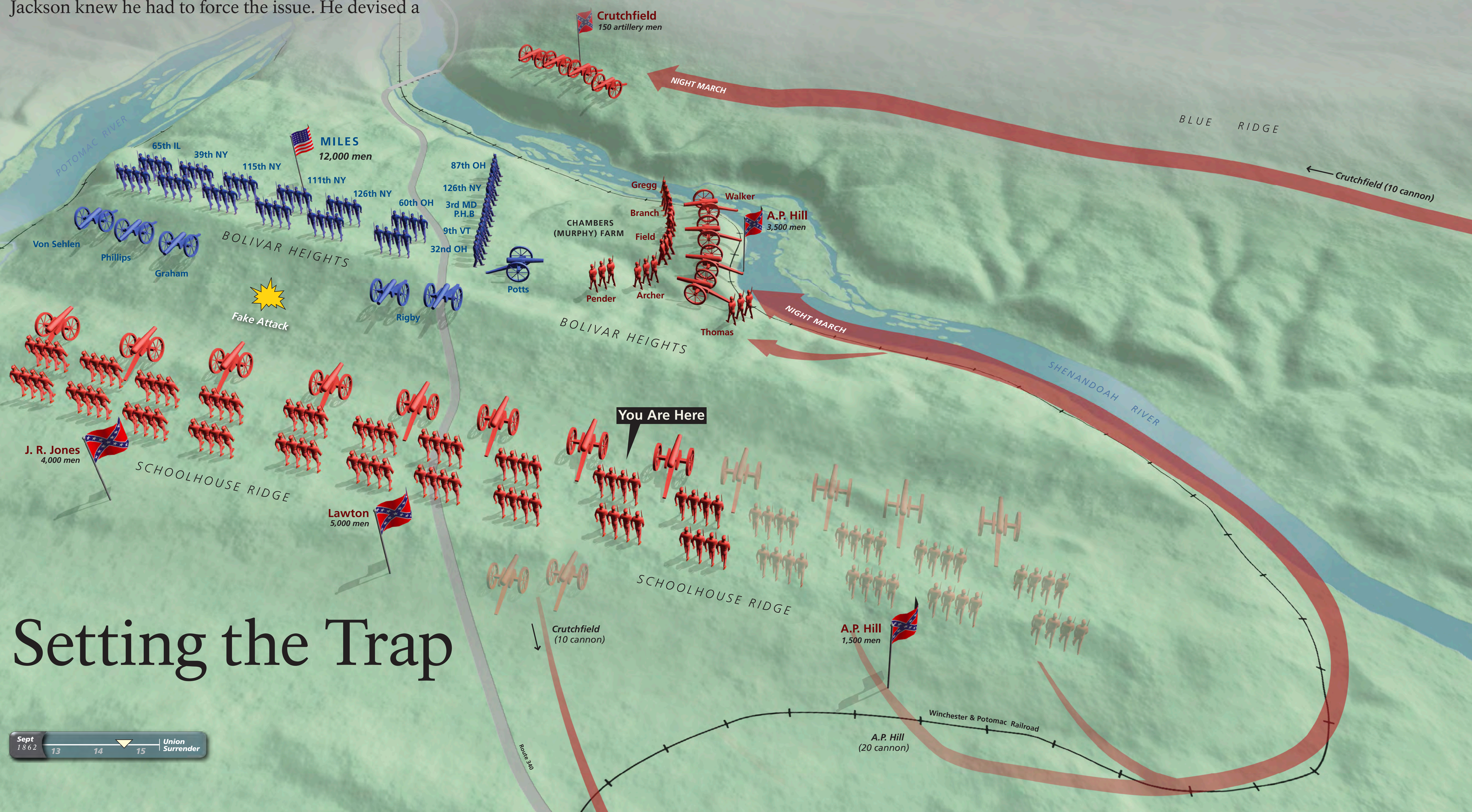
- Historic road
- Historic railroad
- Union position
- Confederate position



Confederate Major General “Stonewall” Jackson faced three enemies—the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry, its formidable position on Bolivar Heights, and time. On the second day of the battle, although pummeled by a Confederate bombardment, the Federals still stood firm. Jackson knew he had to force the issue. He devised a

three-point plan. First, to “turn” the Union flank, he ordered Major General A. P. Hill to march 3,500 men and 20 cannon, under cover of night, to a position behind the Federal lines. Meanwhile, one mile to the north, Jackson staged a fake attack against Bolivar Heights to distract the

Federals from Hill’s maneuver. Finally, Jackson ordered that 10 cannon be moved from Schoolhouse Ridge across the Shenandoah River to a plateau on Loudoun Heights. By Monday morning, September 15, all was accomplished. The trap was set.



Setting the Trap